

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for facilitating treatment of a tooth that is at least partially impacted, said apparatus comprising a wire comprising a first end, a second end, and a substantially planar body extending therebetween, said body ~~comprising a substantially planar surface~~ having a substantially uniform thickness and movable between an activated position and a static position, said first end configured to couple to a tooth that is at least partially impacted, with said body deformed to the activated position, said second end configured to secure said apparatus relative to the tooth, such that said wire applies a substantially constant force to the tooth as said body moves from the activated position to the static position to urge said second end toward said first end.

2. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said body comprises at least one eyelet formed between said first and second ends.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said body is at least one of zigzagged shaped, serpentine shaped, and sinusoidal shaped.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said first end is configured to couple to the tooth without circumscribing the tooth.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said wire is fabricated from a superelastic material.

8. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said body comprises a spring extending between said first and second ends.

9. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising an orthodontic fixture configured to be secured against an external surface of the tooth, said body first end is configured to couple to said orthodontic fixture.

10. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said wire is fabricated at least partially from a shaped memory alloy (SMA).

11. (currently amended) A method for treating a tooth that is at least partially impacted, said method comprising:

coupling a first end of a wire to an impacted tooth, the wire having a substantially planar body extending between the first end and a second end, wherein the body ~~comprises a substantially planar surface~~ has a substantially uniform thickness and is movable between an activated position and a static position; and

coupling the wire second end to an anchoring device with the body deformed to the activated position such that the wire applies a substantially constant force to the impacted tooth as the body moves from the activated position to the static position to urge the second end toward the first end.

12. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein coupling the wire second end to an anchoring device further comprises coupling the wire second end to the anchoring device such that at least one eyelet is defined between the first and second ends of the wire.

13. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein coupling the wire second end to an anchoring device further comprises coupling the wire second end to the anchoring device such that the body ~~remains~~ is unbraided between the first and second ends.

14. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein coupling a first end of a wire having a substantially planar body extending between the first end and a second end to an impacted tooth further comprises coupling the first end of a wire fabricated from a superelastic material to the impacted tooth.

15. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein coupling a first end of a wire having a substantially planar body extending between the first end and a second end to an impacted tooth further comprises coupling the first end of a wire fabricated from a super memory alloy to the impacted tooth.

16. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein coupling the wire second end to an anchoring device further comprises coupling the wire second end to the

anchoring device such that a substantially constant spring force is applied to the impacted tooth.

17. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising:

coupling an orthodontic fixture to an external surface of the impacted tooth;

and

coupling the first end of the wire to the orthodontic fixture.

18. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein coupling the wire second end to an anchoring device further comprises coupling the wire second end to the anchoring device such that the thickness of the apparatus remains substantially uniform between the first and second ends.

19. (new) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said first end is configured to couple to the tooth that is at least partially impacted in a first arch and said second end is configured to couple to a second arch.